

Frankford Arsenal, Buildings 141-143
South side of Worth Road between Eakin Street
and Walbach Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Philadelphia

HAER No. PA-74V

HAER
PA.
51-PHILA,
693-V-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Frankford Arsenal, Buildings 141-143

HAER No. PA-74V

HAER
141A
693-V

Location: South side of Worth Road between Eakin Street and Walbach Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1941

Significance: Constructed in 1941 as a chemical warehouse, Buildings, 141, 141A, 142, 142A, and 143 are associated with the large-scale expansion of Frankford Arsenal, the U.S. Army's principal manufacturer of small arms ammunition, during World War II. The five identical warehouses served as a storage facility for the various laboratories at the arsenal that designed and developed new munitions. They are thus peripherally associated with the important scientific advances and technological innovations pioneered at the arsenal.

Historian: Patrick W. O'Bannon
Principal Historian
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

August 1988

HISTORY

Buildings 141-143 were built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1941-1942 as chemical warehouses. After 1955, the buildings served as general purpose warehouses.

DESCRIPTION

The five buildings in this complex are identical single-story steel frame structures with corrugated metal walls and gabled, corrugated metal roofs, with three ventilators located along the ridge line. The buildings, which measure approximately 30 feet by 50 feet, have concrete foundations. Garage-type doors are centered in the north and south gable ends. A two-foot-thick concrete blast wall surrounds each building on the north, east, and west sides. The interiors are open, with exposed steel Howe roof trusses.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal" (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, (1979).

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

